In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 12 and 19, all as shown below. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled or originally presented claims in a continuing or future application. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for processing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

   accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;

   removing the file attachment from the electronic mail message;

   storing the file attachment in an attachment location;

   inserting a hyperlink in the message, the hyperlink associated with the attachment location, wherein the hyperlink causes submission of validation information to ~~a~~ an attachment server storing the file attachment;

   embedding a security token into the electronic mail message, wherein the security token specifies a security credential that would be transmitted to the attachment server when said hyperlink is utilized by a browser;

   receiving a retrieval request from a recipient of the electronic mail message; and

   determining, based on the security token embedded in the electronic mail message, whether to allow access to the attachment by the recipient and allowing access to the attachment if said security credential is deemed acceptable; and

   performing transduction on the file attachment by the attachment server ~~storing the file attachment~~ prior to providing the file attachment to the recipient, wherein transduction is performed by the attachment server modifying a format of said attachment into a different format that enables the recipient to access the attachment, streaming the attachment to said recipient, or translating text contained in said attachment.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the hyperlink will cause submission of a password to the server storing the file attachment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the attachment location is a location on a web server and the hyperlink includes the address of the web server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a low bandwidth version of the file attachment upon request.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for processing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

    accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;

    determining whether to remove the file attachment;

    in response to a positive determination, storing the file attachment in an attachment location; and

    inserting in the message, an executable file that automatically submits validation information to a server storing the file attachment and retrieves the file attachment from the attachment location on an attachment server;

    embedding a security token into the electronic mail message, wherein the security token specifies a security credential that would be transmitted to the attachment server when said executable file is utilized; and

    performing transduction on the file attachment by the attachment server prior to providing the file attachment to the recipient, wherein the transduction is performed by the attachment server modifying a format of said attachment into a different format that enables the recipient to access the attachment, streaming the attachment to said recipient, or translating text contained in said attachment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the executable prompts a recipient for validation information.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 5, wherein the executable includes validation information which enables the retrieval of the file attachment from the attachment location.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising generating a low bandwidth version of the file attachment upon request.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 5, further comprising converting the file to a commonly usable format.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining an identity of a recipient of the electronic mail message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a domain of a recipient email address.

12. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to process electronic mail messages, the instructions comprising computer code for:

accepting an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;

determining whether to remove the file attachment according to previously determined criteria; and

in response to a positive determination, storing the file attachment in an attachment location on an attachment server and inserting an hyperlink in the message, the hyperlink associated with the attachment location;

embedding a security token into the electronic mail message, wherein the security token specifies a security credential that would be transmitted to the attachment server when said hyperlink is utilized by a browser;

receiving a retrieval request from a recipient of the electronic mail message; and

determining, based on the security token embedded in the electronic mail message, whether to allow access to the attachment by the recipient and allowing access to the attachment if said security credential is deemed acceptable; and

performing transduction on the file attachment by ~~a~~ the attachment server ~~storing the file attachment~~ prior to providing the file attachment to the recipient, wherein the transduction is performed by the attachment server modifying a format of said attachment into a different format that enables the recipient to access the attachment, streaming the attachment to said recipient, or translating text contained in said attachment

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising inserting a data file in the message, wherein the data file enables retrieval of the file attachment.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising storing a low bandwidth version of the file attachment.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising converting the file to streaming content.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a domain of a recipient mail address.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a type of the file attachment.

19. (Currently Amended)   A system for processing electronic mail messages, the system comprising:

a message parser configured to:

accept an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message including a file attachment;

determine whether to remove the file attachment;

in response to a positive determination, store the file attachment in an attachment location; and

insert an attachment reference associated with the attachment location wherein the attachment reference causes submission of validation information to ~~a~~ an attachment server storing the attachment location;

embed a security token into the electronic mail message, wherein the security token specifies a security credential that would be transmitted to the attachment server when said attachment reference is utilized; and

a attachment reference module that manages generation of the ~~hyperlink~~ attachment reference; and

~~an~~ the attachment server that stores the file attachment in the attachment location, wherein the attachment server receives a retrieval request from a recipient and performs transduction on the file attachment prior to providing the file attachment to the recipient, wherein the transduction is performed by the attachment server modifying a format of said attachment into a different format that enables the recipient to access the attachment, streaming the attachment to said recipient, or translating text contained in said attachment.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the attachment reference is a hyperlink.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a size of the file attachment.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining an identity of a sender of the electronic mail message.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein determining whether to remove the file attachment comprises determining a type of the file attachment.

24. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment reference is an executable.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the executable prompts a recipient for validation information and then submits the received validation information to the server storing the attachment location.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment is a media file and the system streams the file attachment to a recipient.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the file attachment is a document including text and the system translates the text.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the server storing the file attachment prompts a recipient for validation information when the recipient attempts to retrieve the file attachment.

29. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the attachment reference is a data file.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the data file enables an application stored on a recipient computer to retrieve the file attachment from the server storing the file attachment.